

**\*MCC Connects:** Regina Host needed for International Volunteer Exchange Program participant: MCCS is looking for one host in Regina for David, an IVEP participant from Cambodia.

Hosts get to share their gifts of hospitality with fine international young people who are committing a full year of service to MCCS. For more info contact IVEP Coordinator Kaytee Edwards Buhler at [KayteeEdwards@mccsk.ca](mailto:KayteeEdwards@mccsk.ca) or 306-665-2555

**\*RJC Tournament of Memories - January 8 & 9, 2016** - Basketball and Hockey are waiting for you! Alumni, family and friends should register by January 1st by email ([deneldafast@hotmail.com](mailto:deneldafast@hotmail.com)) for basketball and hockey. Basketball will include a friendly skills competition in addition to the usual fast paced court action! This will be the second year for our STREET HOCKEY tournament. The games will be played on campus with teams of four. Reconnect with old classmates and friends and exercise your mind, body and spirit at the same time! Your alumni bulletin "RJC CONNECT" will be in the mail soon (and is already on the RJC website) with more details. If you have questions contact Denelda at 306-221-2846 or RJC office at 306-232-4222.

**\*RJC Winter Theatre** - Sunday, January 17, 2016, 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm. The Theatre Arts Class will present "The Fearsome Pirate Frank" in the RJC School Gymnasium. The play is a child appropriate (and adult friendly!) pirate adventure/comedy. Tickets are \$10 (rush seating) and will go on sale in the New Year. *Call or email the office starting January 4, 2016 to reserve your tickets.* 306-232-4222 ; [office@rjc.sk.ca](mailto:office@rjc.sk.ca)

Worship Leader: Patty Friesen and Stephanie Siemens  
Song Leader: Kathryn Janzen  
Accompanist: Lynette Janzen  
Sound: Chris Buhler  
Ushers: Russ Friesen, Cornie Guenther, Jadrian Guenther  
Nursery Supervision: Jan Guenther

The Osler Mennonite Church, Box 129, Osler, Saskatchewan S0K 3A0

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## OSLER MENNONITE CHURCH

Osler, Saskatchewan  
A Welcoming Christian  
Community for Peace

10:00 a.m. Worship Service  
December 20, 2015

### *Fourth Advent* - Lessons and Carols

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Choir: "The World Has Need of Thee"

Call to Worship and Lighting of Advent Candles

**\*Hymns: Blue/HWB #172 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"**  
**Blue/HWB #204 "Gloria"**  
**Blue/HWB #211 "Lo, how a Rose E'er Blooming"**

Sharing Joys and Concerns and Prayer of the Church

Offering - Offertory Music by Mark Bigland Pritchard  
Offertory Prayer

Children's Time: Jake Buhler

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7

Poem: *Be Still and Wait* – T.S. Elliot

We wait in silence

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

Poem: *The Coming* – Catherine of Siena

Choir: "That Beautiful Name"

**Congregation: See Amid the Winter Snow**

Scripture: Luke 2:1-7 Poem: *He did not wait* – Madeline L’Engle

**Congregation: “Away in a Manger”  
“Peace Before Us”**

Scripture: Luke 2:8-14

Poem: *This Year* – Ann Weems

We wait in silence.

**Congregational Hymn: Blue/HWB #204 “Gloria”**

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

Poem: *You are a Wonder* – Ephrem the Syrian

Scripture: Matthew 11:28-30

Choir: “Born in a manger”

**Sending Hymn: Blue/HWB #218 “As With Gladness”  
Blue/HWB #204 “Gloria”**

\*Benediction

*\*Please rise.*

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To all our visitors: WELCOME. We are delighted that you are worshipping with us.

**Scent Free:** We are striving to be considerate of those with sensitivities to scents/fragrances and ask all to avoid wearing scented products.

**Children’s Worship Binder**, an instrument to help children through the worship hour, is available in the foyer.

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## TODAY

- **Christmas Choir practice at 9:00am**
- **Centering Prayer** in Classroom 1 **at 9:15am.**
- **Beverages and snacks** available after the worship service.
- **Refugee Sponsorship Meeting after the Worship Service**
- **Sunday School for all ages** begins at 11:15am.
- **Today at Noon - Pizza lunch for Sunday School kids and families, followed by Sunday School practice for the Christmas Eve program**

**Next Sunday, December 27: “Anna and Simeon” by Patty Friesen, Luke 2:21-40**

Worship leader: Jake Buhler

Song leader: Kevin Boldt Pianist: Melanie Boldt

Children’s Time: Edna Zacharias

Sound: Stephanie Siemens

No Sunday School and no nursery supervision.

Ushers: Russ Friesen, Cornie Guenther, Jadrian Guenther

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## Remember in Prayer

**Joys** - serving at Friendship Inn, Psych Centre, long-term care homes, choral music of the season. Christmas program practice. Christmas hampers.

**Concerns** – Christine Wiebe and family (Harold Loewen's niece) and declining health of John Bueckert. Condolences to the family of Bill Doell, who died Thursday. Bill is uncle to Linda D. and Adeline.

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## Announcements

**\*Patty's Week:** Tuesday: sermon and prayer. Wednesday: office 8-12. Thursday: Christmas Eve service

**\*Today: Refugee Sponsorship Meeting after the worship service:** OMC members have been looking into the possibility of **sponsoring a refugee family**. At a Sept. meeting, 5 church members were willing to join a committee, and nearly 20 indicated ways they could help. Since then, the owner of a home in the city, suitable for a small family, has offered to rent at a very reasonable rate. This cuts the cost of a year's support from about \$27,000 to possibly less than \$20,000. MCC offered to connect us with other people in the city who are keen to help. The committee has begun to meet to build some plans for refugee sponsorship - but the final approval for this needs to come from the congregation as a whole. **We will meet briefly after the service today** to hear and vote on the committee's proposal. Then the group can know whether they can quickly move ahead.

**\*Interested in ongoing conversations on membership and sharing of faith stories?** Please join the deacons in Patty's office Sun. Dec. 27 and Jan. 3 at 11:15 a.m.

\* The Warman **Thrift shop bake** sale raised \$742.00. Thank you for all the donations and the people who came to support us!

\***Friday, January 1, 5:00 pm: New Year's Day Fast and Faspa** at Wildwood Mennonite Church. The first of each month is an invitation to fast for the environment (or recover from New Year's Eve). Come and break fast with faspa potluck and board games at 5pm at Wildwood Mennonite Church.

\*The **MDS Update** for Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> is now posted on the bulletin board.

### Mennonite Church Canada

\*Your gift to Mennonite Church Canada this Advent season helps to heal broken relationships in Canada and in 25 countries around the world. Visit [www.mennonitechurch.ca](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca) to give.



### Mennonite World Conference – Prayers of Gratitude and Intercession

December 2015: *The light of life has shined on those who dwelt in the shadowy darkness of death.* (Isaiah 9:2, The Voice translation). We pray for the light of Christ to shine amid the needs of Anabaptist believers around the world. In 2015, believers in Ethiopia and India were persecuted, conscientious objectors in Colombia and South Korea suffered for their choice, the church in Panama struggled to preserve its ancestral lands, Burkina Faso saw political turmoil, a flood destroyed buildings in Malawi, an earthquake rocked Nepal, the crisis of violence and displacement in Syria reached a breaking point and governments discussed responses to climate change. Lord have mercy! Amid this darkness, we give thanks for the light of Christ on us as Mennonite and Brethren in Christ brothers and sisters gathered in Pennsylvania in July, and as the Global Christian Forum unified church leaders in November. May our daily lives also reflect to our neighbours and enemies the light of Christ that has shined on us. *This child: God's promise to David... He will ensure justice without fail and absolute equity. Always.* (Isaiah 9:7, The Voice translation).

\***Sunday School Christmas Giving Project:** This Christmas, we can give the Gift of Food to People Affected by the War in Syria through the **Canadian Foodgrains Bank**. A donation of **\$13.50 will provide food for one person for a month** through the Foodgrains Bank, and we will hang a CFGB ornament for each person helped. All donations for people affected by the Syrian crisis will be matched 4:1 by the Canadian government. Donations are also matched dollar-for-dollar by the Canadian government through its new Syria Emergency Relief Fund, up until December 31. A donation of \$13.50 will provide a total of \$81—\$67.50 for the Foodgrains Bank (enough for food for five people), and an additional \$13.50 for the government's Syria Emergency Relief Fund, which will dispense money to Canadian NGOs to help people affected by that conflict. A giving jar will be in the foyer or donations can be designated for Sunday School CFGB project through your offering.

\***Student Bursary Fund applications:** A Bursary fund was started by a donation from the Estate of Rev. Corney Boldt for students who will be attending one of our church schools. A once-in-a-lifetime bursary of \$500.00 per student will be available as long as there is money in the fund. To qualify, the applicant or their parents must be members of Osler Mennonite Church or must have been active in the church program for the past three years. Please submit applications must be submitted to the Bursary committee as soon as possible for processing this year. Copies of the application forms are on the bulletin board. Please return the completed application to Doug McKinnell, Linda Stucky or Margaret Boldt.

\*"**Thank-you** for your prayers and kind messages of support following Bill's surgery in Calgary, November 10th. We are staying at our daughter Margaret's and plan to return to Saskatoon December 26th."  
- Helen and Bill Kruger

\***Friendship Inn: Thank you to all who have served in 2015.** A new sign-up sheet has more opportunities to serve at the Inn in the new year: the next date to serve is Saturday, January 16.

## OMC CALENDAR

**Today: Dec 20 - Fourth Sunday of Advent – Music Sunday**

**Sun. Dec 20 9:00am – Choir practice**

**9:15am Centering Prayer** in Classroom 1

**10:00am Worship Service**

**11:00am Beverages and snacks** after worship service.

**11:15am Sunday School** for all ages

**Noon – Pizza lunch for Sunday School kids and families, followed by Christmas program practice**

**Thur Dec 24 7:00pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Program**

**Sun Dec 27 11:15am - Sharing of faith stories** in Patty's office

*NOTE: No children's Sunday School on December 27th.*

## 2016

**Sat Jan 2 7:00pm - YOUTH Movie Night at Ben & Diana's**

**Sun Jan 3 11:15am – Sharing of faith stories** in Patty's office

**Sun Jan 10 11:15am – Winter Study 1 – “Dying Well”**

Noon – Worship Committee Meeting

**Sun Jan 17 Loose Change Sunday**

**11:15am – Winter Study 2 – “Dying Well”**

**Noon – Youth Pizza Lunch, followed by:**

**2:00pm – Youth attend RJC Winter Theatre**

**Sun Jan 24 11:15am – Winter Study 3 – “Dying Well”**

**Noon – Potluck Lunch**

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### **Commentary: Our world groans** by Daniel Horne

December 3, 2015 - Mennonite Church Canada, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Like Lent and most other Christian holidays, Advent was traditionally a time of sacrifice, fasting and personal reflection leading up to Christ's birth. Following Christ's birth, we celebrated the 12 Days of Christmas with feasts, gift giving, and worship. But these days, the reverence of Advent seems lost.

As the cold deepens and the daylight grows shorter, we fight against inner darkness and allow Advent to be overtaken by the celebrations that normally follow it. Months of consumption, feasting and festivities begin as early as November and carry over into the New Year – and they are often followed by months of debt and dieting.

Just after Halloween (Oct. 31) this year, veterans were compelled to appeal publically for Canadians to delay the clamour of Christmas advertising and consumption until after Remembrance Day (Nov. 11) as a sign of respect.

Many of us currently have access to more material possessions than we could ever possibly need and yet for numerous people, Christmas is psychologically the most difficult time of the year. Energy decreases as stress rises. Our world groans with uncertainty over finances and the economy, war, terrorism, refugee migration, cross-cultural relationships, governance and oil. Congregations wrestle with issues of their own, such as aging, finances, sexuality and an uncertain future.

For some reason, we tend to believe these concerns are particular to our time and place, yet Christ's own birth was surrounded by uncertainty, political turmoil and the mystery of the coming Messiah. In Luke 2:10 we are assured by the familiar words, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.” In light of the coming “good news” I urge you to take some time this advent season to:

1. Mentally and spiritually prepare yourself for Christ's birth. As the season grows darker and colder, take time to be still and to listen to the quiet voice of God.
2. Physically align yourself with the anticipation and make sacrifices this advent. Fasting before a feast will help you to appreciate the feast even more.
3. Be generous and care for our most vulnerable.
4. Put down your smartphone and make eye contact with those around you. Surround yourself with loved ones, reconcile relationships, enjoy the presence of strangers.
5. Like Mary in Luke 1:46-55, wait in humble anticipation and give thanks in a time of uncertainty. For a moment, stop trying to figure out what the future will bring and remember that our future is in God's hands and imagination. God is faithful. I invite you to take a step back and prepare yourself for the Celebration of Christ's birth. If this season you feel the world around you groaning (Romans 8:19) in the cold dark days leading up to Christmas, share what you are hearing and feeling with others. May this be a meaning-filled Advent.